

THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCGEE
"TAKING A BAND STAND"
525B-312 - 1st Draft
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INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

PRINCIPAL O'CONNOR takes the stage, MIC in hand.

1 **PRINCIPAL O'CONNOR**
Good morning, students! I have a
very special announcement to make--

MOLLY rushes to the stage and grabs O'Connor's mic.

2 **MOLLY**
Brighton Middle School can finally
afford a music teacher! All thanks
to your Booster Club!

3 **GLORIA**
We have a Booster Club?

The kids <WHISPER> in confusion. POP TO:

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Molly stands under a banner that reads: "BOOSTER CLUB MEETING TODAY". She reads off a CLIPBOARD.

4 **MOLLY**
Roll call! McGee, Molly?

Molly hides the clipboard behind her back and races to a chair, with her hand raised.

5 **MOLLY (CONT'D)**
Present!

REVEAL: Molly is the only one there. BACK TO:

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Molly taps the mic.

6 **MOLLY**
Hello? Is this thing on? This means
we're getting a band, people!

The kids rush the stage and hoist Molly on their shoulders.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Kids wriggle in their seats, excited for class to begin.
GLORIA makes the metal sign and waggles her tongue.

7 **GLORIA**

Put a French Horn in my hands and
I'll bring down THE HOUSE.

Georgie pounds her fist in her palm.

8 **GEORGIE**

Can't wait to burn off some of this
aggression. Bring on the timpani!

SCRATCH floats behind Molly, performing an air-sax.

9 **SCRATCH**

Moll, you think you can sneak me a
saxophone?

Molly mimes waving a baton.

10 **MOLLY**

We're all going to rock out at the
Brighton Bandshell! Or maybe we'll
hit the road, opening for Kenny
Star or Atomic Pink... Oh! Here
comes our teacher!

DR. MELODY (30s, proper, but kind) strolls into class.

11 **DR. MELODY**

Good morning, my talented triplets!
My name is Dr. Melody.

The kids <OOH> with wide eyes. Molly nudges Gloria.

12 **DR. MELODY (CONT'D)**

Under you seats, you'll each find a
case that contains an instrument
that will change the course of your
lives as you know it.

The kids find their INSTRUMENT CASES and crack them open with
excitement. Their faces fall as Gloria holds a RECORDER
between her thumb and forefinger in disgust.

13 **GLORIA**

This doesn't look like the French
Horn...

14 **DR. MELODY**

I give you... the recorder!

Everyone remains frozen. Melody writes on the whiteboard.

15 **DR. MELODY** (CONT'D)
The recorder derives from the Latin
recordari which means "to call to
mind, remember, or recollect"...

OLLIE scribbles notes. The GHOST COUNCIL portals in.

16 **SIR ALISTER**
Mr. Chairman! We've been looking
all over for you!

17 **SCRATCH**
Hey, the Ghost Council! Ya miss me?

Sir Alister rolls his eyes and gestures to Ollie.

18 **SIR ALISTER**
I meant HIM.

19 **SCRATCH**
Right. Because he's Chairman now...

20 **OLLIE**
Sorry, I can't really do Chairman
duties now. I've got music class.

21 **GRIMBELLA**
Oh dear, we thought this was your
scheduled hour for physical
education. I suppose we can come
back later...

Dr. Melody taps her BATON on her MUSIC STAND.

22 **DR. MELODY**
Recorders up! Let's begin!

The class blows on their recorders. A horrendous atonal
<BLAST> rattles the classroom walls. Ollie winces.

23 **OLLIE**
On second thought, I can squeeze in
some Chairman stuff.

Scratch plugs his ears.

24 **SCRATCH**
I'll go with you. For, uh,
emotional support!

Ollie and Scratch follow the barristers into a portal leaving
SHELL OLLIE behind. He <TOOTS> on his recorder.

25 **SHELL OLLIE**
 (deadpan)
Wow. Musical bliss.

EXT. GHOST WORLD - MAIN STREET - ETERNAL NIGHT

Ollie reads a SCROLL as Scratch and the Ghost Council watch.

26 **OLLIE**
The ghost economy is booming,
mortality rates are at an all-time
high--

27 **SIR ALISTER**
Thank you stress, cigarettes, and
the cholesterol-heavy diet!

28 **OLLIE**
--and every ghost has a spring in
their float. So what's the problem?

29 **LUCRETIA**
Just a small overcrowding issue...

30 **GRIMBELLA**
We've resorted to--
 (shudders)
Bunking with each other.

POP TO: The barristers cram in a bunkbed. Bart snuggles happily in the middle, while everyone else deals with elbows and knees jabbing them every which way. **BACK TO SCENE:**

31 **BARTHOLOMEW**
I don't mind roommates! (sotto) I'm
so lonely...

Ollie rolls up the scroll, tucking it under his arm.

32 **OLLIE**
Don't worry, Bart. I'll be your
friend. Now, let's see what we can
do about this overcrowding issue!

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM - DAY

The kids look miserable as they conclude their recorder lesson. Dr. Melody <APPLAUDS>

33 **DR. MELODY**

Well done, my precious pizzicatos!
And another gold star for Ollie
Chen. Your enthusiasm radiates off
each note!

34 **SHELL OLLIE**

(deadpan) Woo. Hoo.

Mr. Melody places a gold star on Shell Ollie's forehead. His entire body is covered in stars. Shell Ollie <SQUEAKS> out a note then gives a half-hearted thumbs up.

35 **DR. MELODY**

The rest of you keep practicing!
Our recital is just around the
corner!

The <BELL RINGS> and as the students pack their recorders up, they crowd Molly.

36 **GEORGIE**

You promised us a band, McGee. And
THIS is not a band instrument!

The kids <GROWL> in agreement. Molly sweats.

37 **MOLLY**

We have to give the recorder a
chance! Dr. Melody is trying to
bring music into our world and
music is one of the most potent
enhappifiers! Am I right?

The kids <GRUMBLE> in reluctant agreement.

EXT. GHOST WORLD - ETERNAL NIGHT

Scratch directs Ollie as he struggles to set up a banner that reads "MOVE ALONG LIL' GHOSTIES". Scratch eats a TACO, not paying attention.

38 **SCRATCH**

A little to the left. Now the
right. There. Perfect.

39 **OLLIE**

Are you sure?

40 **SCRATCH**

Yeah it's fine.

Ollie lets the banner go. It flutters to the ground.

41 **OLLIE**

I'll fix that later. Let me walk
you through my Move Along Lil
Ghosties initiative.

Ollie guides Scratch over to a little TENT where GHOSTS line
up in an orderly fashion. Bart wears a tour guide visor and
leads a pack of lost souls by carrying a flag.

42 **OLLIE (CONT'D)**

The old Chairman kept ghosts from
leaving the Ghost World because he
fed off their misery. But with my
plan, we could make ghosts happier
AND free up some space by helping
them move on!

Lucretia sits in a private booth. She consults with
CLEOPATRA'S GHOST. Another ghost floats out and hands a
scroll to Ollie.

43 **OLLIE (CONT'D)**

We assist lost souls with their
unfinished business. Then we sort
the proper paperwork and send them
on their on their way!

44 **CLEOPATRA'S GHOST**

Wow, I really was holding onto my
anger. But now I feel unburdened
and ready to move on. Thanks,
Chairman Ollie!

45 **OLLIE**

My pleasure.

Ollie stamps the scroll, and guides Cleopatra over to a
PORTAL. Grimbella hands out GOODY-BAGS WITH A RAINBOW PRINT
to ghosts as they pass through.

46 **OLLIE (CONT'D)**

And everyone gets a customized
goody-bag for their journey!

47 **GRIMBELLA**

We love you! You're the best
Chairman we ever had!

48 **SCRATCH**

Hey! I'm floating right here!

Ollie beams. He paces, rubbing his hands.

49 **OLLIE**

It feels so good to be
engoodifying. What a rush. Do you
feel the rush? Tell me you feel it!

50 **SCRATCH**

Uh, sure. Or could be my tum tum.
Let's get back home and grab a
couple Flavor Burgers. My treat!

A portal appears. They're about to float through when the
CHURRO CART GHOST approaches.

51 **CHURRO CART GHOST**

Oh hey Mr. Chairman, sir. I got a
little problem.

Ollie sticks his head through the portal and hears the
<SQUEALS OF RECORDERS>. He pulls his head back out and closes
the portal.

52 **OLLIE**

I could stay... What's up?

53 **CHURRO CART GHOST**

My cart keeps getting sabotaged.

FLASHBACK: Scratch stabs a fork into the cart's tire. As the
Churro Cart Ghost inspects it, Scratch uses the distraction
to swipe an armful of CHURROS.

BACK TO SCENE. Scratch hides a <FORK> behind his back.

54 **OLLIE**

Well, I was on my way home, but one
more engoodificaton won't hurt!

Scratch <GROANS>, dragging his cheeks.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

<RECORDERS PLAYING> MR. PHAM pops in, plugging his ears.

55 **MR. PHAM**

I came to investigate the source of
my new headache.

Dr. Melody sets her baton down. The music stops.

56 **DR. MELODY**

We're just rehearsing for the big
recital. Say, I don't see your name
on the attendee list, Mr. Pham.

57 **MR. PHAM**

Oh yeah. I, uh, have my weekly
<INCOHERENT MUMBLING> that night...

Mr. Pham ducks out. Dr. Melody chases with a clipboard.

58 **DR. MELODY**

But it's for the good of the
students!

With Dr. Melody gone, the kids toss down their recorders.

59 **GEORGIE**

Finally! She's gone! Let's DO THIS.

Georgie throws open a CABINET and tosses out INSTRUMENTS to
grabby hands. Molly darts around, trying to curb the chaos.

60 **MOLLY**

Put those back! We'll gonna get in
trouble! And the Booster Club did a
lot to make this happen--

Georgie drops a FLUTE in Molly's hands. Molly's eyes go wide.
A bit of drool creeps from her slack-jawed mouth.

61 **MOLLY (CONT'D)**

It feels like artisan angels
whittled this for my very own
fingers. No! I can't! And yet...

Molly's lips quiver as she brings the mouth piece up, but the
flute is taken away, breaking her trance.

REVEAL: Dr. Melody collects all of the instruments. <AW MAN>

62 **DR. MELODY**

No no no, class. We're focusing on
the recorder.

Dr. Melody pulls out a PADLOCK and clasps the cabinet shut.
She pats Shell Ollie (holding his recorder) on the head.

63 **DR. MELODY (CONT'D)**

Everyone can learn a thing from
Ollie Chen! It seems like he is the
only one in the proper spirit.

64 **SHELL OLLIE**

(deadpan)

Yes, let the spirit of the recorder
flow through you.

Molly sees Shell Ollie.

65 **MOLLY**
Is Ollie back in the Ghost World
AGAIN?

EXT. GHOST WORLD - ETERNAL NIGHT

Ollie stamps a scroll. He's surrounded by scrolls.

66 **OLLIE**
And that takes care of my latest
ghost pet adoption initiative.
(quizzical)
Lotta displaced ghost birds coming
in from Brighton these days...

Scratch waits impatiently, drumming his fingers.

67 **SCRATCH**
What do you say we call it an
eternal-night? We've been here
forever and that's saying something
since this is the after-life.

Ollie stamps scroll after scroll, burying Scratch.

68 **OLLIE**
Can't stop, won't stop! Come on,
doesn't it feel great to help?

69 **SCRATCH**
I'll admit that I felt... *something*
about 8,000 good deeds ago, but I'm
numb to it now. You can't fix
everything all at once! Save a
little engoodifying for tomorrow!
Or next week! Or next year even!

Ollie considers this for a beat. SAM KING GHOST floats in.

70 **SAM KING GHOST**
Mr. Chairman! There you are! My
ghost cat is stuck up in a tree!

71 **SCRATCH**
Ghost cat in a tree? Can they just
float down--

72 **OLLIE**
The Chairman is on it!

73 **SCRATCH**
Even if it falls, it's a ghost!
What's the worst that can happen?!

Ollie follows Sam King Ghost. Scratch facepalms.

INT. MCGEE HOME - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

DAD reads a NEWSPAPER. MOM reads a BOOK. A <RECORDER SCREECH>. The sound causes Mom to rip her book in half. Dad puts a finger in his mouth.

74 **DAD**

That knocked a filling loose.

75 **MOM**

Molly! Could you come in here?

Molly enters, carrying her recorder.

76 **DAD**

We love that you're so dedicated to your music class, sweetie, but...

77 **MOM**

Take that abomination outside.

EXT. MCGEE HOME - DRIVEWAY

Molly's about to blow into her recorder when she looks up to see she's surrounded by her classmates.

78 **GEORGIE**

Something has gotta go. It's either the recorder... (menacing) or YOU.

Georgie makes the throat-slashing gesture. Molly <GASPS!> But Abigail pulls Georgie in and whispers.

79 **GEORGIE (CONT'D)**

Okay fine, violence is not the answer. But we'll be really, really mad at you for a long time!

Molly <GASPS> even more horrified by this.

80 **MOLLY**

I know it's not what we pictured when we spent all that time fundraising and convincing the school board that a band was essential to a well-rounded education, but Dr. Melody thought it best to teach us to play...

Molly stares at her recorder. Finally, she snaps.

81 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)
 ... this cob-awful excuse for a
 whistle! I can't fight this any
 longer! This torture must end!

SONGBURST: "RECORDER RÉVOLUTION" a la Les Miserable's "Do You Hear the People Sing?" Molly leads her classmates to the middle school where they demand to be rid of the recorder. Intercut with Ollie and Scratch engoodifying. Each time, Scratch attempts to pull Ollie away, but Ollie can't stop himself from doing ONE. MORE. GOOD. DEED.

-- Molly and the kids create a makeshift barrier in front of Dr. Melody's classroom by tossing music stands, recorder cases, and sharpened recorders.

-- Ollie and Scratch help an old ghost roll out trash cans.

-- Some kids belt out lyrics in French for some reason. They want to play something-- ANYTHING else!

-- Ollie helps GEOFF learn a popular dance trend.

-- Molly uses a pair of bolt cutters to access the music cabinet and tosses out instruments.

-- Ollie slings drinks at the coffee shop while the Barista Ghost nurses his arm in a sling. **END SONGBURST**

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAYS

Principal O'Connor storms out of his office. He sees the barrier and bunch of angry, revolutionized kids. He turns on his heels (a la Lightfoot in ep 102).

Dr. Melody approaches. Shell Ollie is at her side.

82 **DR. MELODY**
 What is this is all about?

Molly pops up from behind the barricade.

83 **MOLLY**
 We demand a sit down, doc.

Dr. Melody easily steps around the barricade and opens the classroom door for Molly.

84 **DR. MELODY**
 I see. After you, Ms. McGee.

Molly proudly marches in first, followed by Melody. Molly pops back out with a first raised. The kids <CHEER>.

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM

Dr. Melody is at her desk, calm and collected. Molly slams down a PIECE OF PAPER.

85 **MOLLY**
Our list of demands.

Dr. Melody reads the paper.

86 **DR. MELODY**
It just says "No more recorder."
And recorder is spelled wrong.

87 **MOLLY**
Ugh Georgie!
(then)
Well, it still stands! We're sick
of the recorder! I don't know
what's coming out of that thing,
but it's not music!

88 **DR. MELODY**
I agree with you.

Molly paces with an arm behind her back, a finger in the air.

89 **MOLLY**
And another thing!
(then)
Wait. What?

90 **DR. MELODY**
The recorder isn't the most
pleasant sounding instrument, but I
start all my students on it because
it's easy to master.

Molly looks wary.

91 **DR. MELODY (CONT'D)**
Kids that jump straight to the
hardest instruments get discouraged
and quit. My intention is to build
confidence in you first! THEN you
can move onto the French horn, the
flute, etc.

Molly's eyes go starry at the mention of the flute.

92 **MOLLY**
The flute... it calls to me...

The classroom door bursts open causing all the of the eavesdropping kids to tumble in. Dr. Melody smiles.

93 **DR. MELODY**

Let's make a deal: if by the end of the recital you still want to throw away your recorders, I'll provide the trash cans!

(then)

All I ask is that you try your best.

Molly looks to the others for approval. They nod. Molly shakes Dr. Melody's hand.

94 **MOLLY**

Deal.

INT. GHOST WORLD - BUS STOP - ETERNAL NIGHT

Ollie (wearing a BUS DRIVER HAT) pulls to the curb, driving a BUS. He opens the door to let an OLD LADY GHOST out.

95 **OLD LADY GHOST**

Thank you, Chairman. Without you, I would have missed my stop.

96 **OLLIE**

Just doing my job!

Scratch floats in.

97 **SCRATCH**

You're driving bus routes now?
That's not even a Chairman job!

Scratch drags Ollie off the bus, stuffs the hat on the Old Lady Ghost, then shoves the her into the driver's seat.

98 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**

You drive now.

99 **OLD LADY GHOST**

But I can't see...

The bus drives away. A <CRASH> O.S. A TIRE bounces back.

100 **OLLIE**

Scratch! What gives?!

101 **SCRATCH**

I know you want to do good, but you can't hang around here forever.

(MORE)

SCRATCH (CONT'D)

This is the GHOST WORLD--you'll have an eternity to fix it, but can't miss out your actual life.

102 **OLLIE**

Come on, what am I really missing?

103 **SCRATCH**

Something important? Involving the school? Parents?

Ollie draws a blank, completely stumped.

104 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**

And a nasty little instrument designed to drive anyone who hears it insane...?

105 **OLLIE**

<GASP> The recorder recital! I completely forgot! I need to get back to Brighton. Thanks Scratch, for helping me--

Scratch shoves Ollie toward a portal.

106 **SCRATCH**

No time for a heartfelt wrap up! Let's just go already!

INT. BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - EVENING

The auditorium swells with beautiful music (Enya would weep) as Melody conducts. SLO-MO as their hair whips in a magical wind. They look SO HAPPY! **REVEAL:** it's actually a squeaky rendition of "Hot Cross Buns." But they're still proud!

107 **GEORGIE**

Who knew the recorder could make me feel so accomplished?!

108 **MOLLY**

(knowing) Dr. Melody did...

Dr. Melody smiles at the kids as Ollie and Scratch portal in unnoticed. Ollie leaps into his Shell body.

109 **DR. MELODY**

Now I'm proud to present a solo by recorder prodigy, Ollie Chen!

Ollie raises the recorder and plays a excruciating note.

THE END.